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HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1953.

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Medical Officer of Health.

K.M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

H. SPINDLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.

G.H. GRAYSTON, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Assistant Housing Officer and Additional Sanitary Inspector.

N.J. WHITE, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., A.A.L.P.A.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Water Committee	-	Council's water undertakings.
Housing Committee	-	Improvement of housing amenities under Housing Act, 1949. Provision of housing accommodation by the Council and also by private enterprise.
Public Health Committee	-	Sewerage, refuse collection, rodent control and all other public health functions.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bowell and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of Hartismere Rural District. During the whole of the year under consideration my predecessor, Dr. M.A. Dawson, was in office.

There have been no great changes in the Vital Statistics as compared with 1952. The population has been slightly reduced, but the number of births has increased, and the standardised Birth Rate (16.8) is higher than that for England and Wales (15.5). The comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, being more than one, shows that Hartismere has on the whole a smaller than average proportion of potential mothers. The Standardised Death Rate (8.16) compares favourably with that for England and Wales (11.4). The Infant Mortality Rate (29.7) has increased and it is now higher than that for the rest of the country (26.8). In view of the comparatively small number involved, however, too much emphasis cannot be placed on the increase from 25.7 in 1952 to 29.7 in 1953. It will be seen from the text that the number of infant deaths in 1953 increased by one only from the previous year.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the first quarter, and an outbreak of Whooping Cough during the last four months of the year. No deaths were recorded from either of these diseases. No other notifiable diseases reached epidemic proportions. No case of Diphtheria has been notified in the district since 1947.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, but this may be due to improved facilities for diagnosis. The number of deaths from this disease has declined sharply.

I should like, in conclusion, to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. My thanks are also due to the Sanitary Inspectors, the Water Engineer and other members of the staff of the Council for their unfailing help and assistance in the day to day work of the Public Health Department.

I am,
Yours faithfully

K.M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health.

9th June 1954.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.	96,486 acres.
Population.	17,080
No. of inhabitated houses.	5,877.
Rateable Value.	£45,178
Product of penny rate.	£187. 7. 8.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate births.	111	108	219
Illegitimate births.	8	9	17
Total births.	119	117	236

Birth Rate.

Crude per 1,000 population.	13.8
Per 1,000 population (England and Wales).	15.5
Comparability factor.	1.22
Standardised birth rate.	16.8

Still Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	1	3	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Totals.	1	3	4

Still Birth Rate.

Per 1,000 population.	0.23
Per 1,000 population (England and Wales).	0.35

Infant Mortality (under one year)

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	3	3	6
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
	4	3	7

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	3	3	6
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
	4	3	7

Infant Mortality Rate.

Crude per 1,000 live births.	29.7
Per 1,000 live births (England and Wales).	26.8

Infant Mortality.

All the deaths occurring in infants under one year happened during the first four weeks of life. All seven deaths occurred in hospitals. The following were the causes of death:-

Congenital heart disease	1
Prematurity	2
Intracranial haemorrhage	2
Atelextasis	1
Post natal infection	1

Death Rate (Registrar General's Figures).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
All causes.	84	91	175

Crude death rate per 1,000 population	10.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	11.4
Comparability factor	0.8
Standardised death rate	8.16

The Registrar General has continued to supply a comparability factor - 0.8 - by which the Crude Death Rate must be adjusted for comparison with other areas of the Country. As this factor is less than unity the Standardised, or corrected Death Rate, is less than the Crude Death Rate. This indicates that Hartismere has a greater "weighting" of elderly persons than the average for the rest of the country.

Causes of Deaths.	Male	Female	Total 1953	Total 1952
Tuberculosis - respiratory	-	-	-	6
Tuberculosis - other.	1	-	1	-
Other infective or parasitic diseases	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	1	3	9
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, bronchus	4	-	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	5	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	2	2	1
Other Malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	11	6	17	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1	4
Diabetes	-	2	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	15	20	30
Coronary disease, angina	17	13	30	30
Hypertension, with heart disease	2	2	4	9
Other heart disease	15	20	35	45
Other circulatory disease	5	7	12	13
Pneumonia	-	1	1	8
Bronchitis	2	3	5	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1	-
Hyperplasm of prostrate	2	-	2	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17	23
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2	2
All other accidents	1	3	4	4
Suicide	2	1	3	1
	84	91	175	226

Cancer.

There were 31 deaths from Cancer in 1953 as compared with 38 in 1952. Cancer Death Rate:-

Hartismere .18 per thousand population.
East Suffolk 2.02 per thousand population.

Vital Statistics - Summary for past 4 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	England & Wales 1953.	London 1953.
Population.	17,110	17,190	17,180	17,080		
Live Births.	252	284	233	236		
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population.	14.7	16.5	13.56	13.8		
Standardised Birth Rate.	17.9	20.13	16.5	16.8	15.5	17.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	4	8	6	7		
Infant Mortality Rate.	29.8	28.2	25.7	29.7	26.8	24.8
Deaths.	201	258	227	175		
Crude death rate.	11.7	14.4	13.2	10.2		
Standardised death rate.	9.4	11.52	10.56	8.16	11.4	12.5

Summary of Principal Causes of Death for past 5 Years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Diseases of Cardiac and Circulatory System (including Cerebral Haemorrhage).	130	101	141	127	101
Cancer.	31	40	31	39	31
Diseases of Respiratory System (excluding Tuberculosis).	16	13	21	15	7
Tuberculosis - all forms.	3	5	6	6	1
Suicide and Violent Causes.	11	6	8	7	9

3.

Monthly Notification of Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	14	20	4
Measles.	12	19	15	7	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Notifiable Diseases - Age Distribution.

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	7	8	25	1	-	1	-	-
Measles.	1	9	15	24	5	-	2	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic).	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Notifiable Diseases - Summary for past 5 years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever.	20	6	21	4	5
Whooping Cough.	91	31	146	40	45
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	134	398	96	172	56
Acute Pneumonia.	27	14	8	14	1
Meningococcal infection.	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis.	3	2	1	2	1
Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	4	1
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid.	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning.	1	-	8	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	1	2
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Hepatitis.	6	12	6	1	1

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer).

No. of pre-school children immunised - 152
No. of school children immunised - 17
No. of booster injections - 170

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

	Males.		Females.		
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total.
Cases on register at 1.1.53.	37	14	18	15	84
"Ordinary" (i.e. Primary) notifications.	6	2	4	2	14
Cases added otherwise than by primary notification.	-	-	2	-	2
	43	16	24	17	100
Cases taken off register during 1953.					
Deaths.	2	-	-	-	2
Recovered cases.	1	4	-	5	10
Removed from District.	5	-	3	-	8
Total cases removed from Register.	8	4	3	5	20
No. of cases remaining on register at 31.12.53.	35	12	21	12	80

Occupations of New Cases.

Nurse 1; Schoolboy 2; Schoolgirl 1; Roadman 1; Smallholder 1; Housewife 3; Farmer 1; Farm labourer 1; Bookkeeper 1; Bricklayer's labourer 1; Lorry driver 1.

Ages of New Cases.

Male (pulmonary) 47, 31, 65, 73, 57, 51.
Male (non-pulmonary) 10, 14.

Female (pulmonary) 20, 28, 31, 56.
Female (non-pulmonary) 49, 14.

Notification Rate.

Pulmonary (Hartismere) .59 per thousand population.
Pulmonary (East Suffolk) .48 per thousand population.
Non-Pulmonary (Hartismere) .23 per thousand population.
Non-Pulmonary (East Suffolk) .18 per thousand population.

Tuberculosis death rate.

Hartismere - .07 per thousand population.
East Suffolk - .11 per thousand population.

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 Years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number added to Register by Primary Notification.					
(a) Pulmonary.	11	7	10	17	10
(b) Non-Pulmonary.	4	4	2	3	4
Total No. added to Register.	16	15	14	20	16
Deaths for					
(a) Pulmonary.	3	5	4	6	-
(b) Non-Pulmonary.	-	-	2	-	1
Death Rate (Tuberculosis) per 1,000 population.	.17	.29	.33	.34	.07

6. WATER SUPPLY.

Stage IV A was completed. This serves the village of Stoke Ash, part of the parishes of Braiseworth and Thornham, the village of Yaxley and that part of the village of Mellis laying East of the Railway.

In addition three short extensions to the existing scheme were made in the parishes of Cotton and Bacton.

Water Examinations.

Well Water - 12 samples were taken from various wells. On examination five were found to be satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory.

Mains - 16 routine samples were submitted for examination. 15 of these were satisfactory - 1 was unsatisfactory. With regard to this specimen it was thought that there had been contamination by a dirty tap. A second specimen was accordingly submitted and this was found to be satisfactory.

Water samples were also taken from the River Waveney and the Weybread Gravel Pits used by the Harleston Swimming Club. The samples were unsatisfactory and the Club was warned. The matter continues to receive surveillance.

Well Water Cyanosis.

Twenty-six samples of water were taken during the year from shallow wells (which would be the source of supply for newly born babies). Twelve of these were found on analysis to be safe. Fourteen were found to be unsafe and the families concerned were advised about obtaining an alternative supply of water.

7. SEWERAGE.

Mendlesham Village - The Scheme for providing new drains to properties previously connected to the old village sewer was continued, and the remaining 32 houses were connected making a total of 82. In addition 30 properties - non-statutory connections - were connected.

Bedfield - During the year a housing drainage scheme was commenced to serve 10 Council houses at Bedfield.

General - The total number of Council houses now served by drainage schemes is 101, in addition further schemes were prepared to serve another 48 houses at Cotton, Kenton and Thorndon.

8. HOUSING.

In 1953 51 new Council houses including 4 two-bedroom bungalows were completed bringing the total number of houses owned by the Council up to 732. Work was also commenced on new types of Old Persons bungalows and two-bedroom houses.

9. MILK DEALERS LICENCES.

Pasteurised Milk - 5 dealers and 7 supplementary licences were issued.

Tuberculin Tested Milk - 4 dealers and 5 supplementary licences were issued.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

No action was taken under this section of the Act during 1953

11. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

Number of factories with mechanical power - 47
Number of factories without mechanical power - 6
Other premises - building sites etc. - 40
Number of inspections made - 70
Number of defects found - 0

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Senior Sanitary Inspector

as to the

Sanitary Conditions of the Hartismere Rural District for the Year 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of the Hartismere Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bowell and Gentlemen,

1. The Department was reorganised with effect from the 1st January 1953.

2. HOUSING.

(a) New Housing.

51 houses were erected by the Council during the year bringing the total number of houses owned by them to 732. 21 houses were erected by private enterprise.

(b) Byelaw Inspections.

239 byelaw inspections were made of work being carried out on private property.

(c) Demolition Orders.

13 demolition orders were made.

(d) Housing Act 1949.

(i) 13 applications for grant for improvements were made and these were approved by this Council and the Ministry during the year.

(ii) 1 application was received for grant for the provision of a dwelling house by conversion but this had not been approved by the end of the year.

(e) Action under Sections 92 and 93, Public Health Act, 1936.

2 notices were served under these sections requiring repairs to dwelling houses, 1 was complied with without Court action. In the other case the action heard by the Magistrates resulted in the imposition of a fine and work was later completed.

(f) Action under Section 65 (2), Public Health Act, 1936.

There was only one case under the above which resulted in the acceptance by the Council of an undertaking not to use the hut concerned as a dwelling.

(g) Moveable Dwellings.

The number of moveable dwellings licensed at the end of December was 22 these dwellings are generally in a satisfactory condition and probably represent a smaller number than exist in most districts, but it does indicate a definite desire to live in this manner.

3. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

No formal action was taken during the year. A small quantity of tinned food, etc. was condemned. Closer attention was paid to Mobile Fish Fryers and owners of these were advised of work necessary to their vans to ensure compliance with the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Act.

The Transport Cafes were visited and informal action taken in one case.

The two licensed Knackers Yards continue to be operated in a satisfactory manner.

4. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

(a) Brucella Abortus.

2 Restraint Notices were served during the year following Laboratory reports that Brucella Abortus was present in the milk. One of these was withdrawn. 6 Restraint Notices were in force at the end of the year.

(b) Retail Sale of Milk.

The majority of the milk retailers were advised as to the requirements of the Act and this has resulted in a larger amount of bottled milk being sold.

5. RODENT CONTROL.

In June the number of operators was reduced from 2 to 1. This has not resulted in any decrease in the efficiency of the service.

6. REFUSE COLLECTION.

The number of dustbins issued at December 1953 was 4,381. During the year the Council resolved to maintain its present system of refuse collection.

7. REGISTRATION OF DEALERS IN OLD METAL.

The above was commenced under Section 86 of the Public Health (A) Act 1907 but at the end of the year no dealers were licensed.

8. PLANNING CONTROL.

The Council considered the possibility of the delegation of planning control from the County Council to the District Council, but resolved to recommend that the existing practice be continued.

9. PETROL STORAGE LICENCES.

Inspections of existing installations and also of applications for new installations continued during the year.

10. SEWERAGE.

(a) Mendlesham.

The scheme for statutory connections was completed during the year and concerned 68 properties, 11 pre-war Council houses were also connected and the new estate of 34 houses. The number of connections by private owners is disappointingly small in spite of the Council's scheme allowing deferred payments for this work.

(b) Palgrave.

This scheme, prepared by the department, necessitated lengthy negotiations with the Diss U.D.C. and was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government towards the end of the year.

(c) Hoxne.

After lengthy consultations with regard to the siting of the Sewage Disposal Works and design of this scheme it was approved by the County Council and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(d) Rickinghall and Botesdale.

Similar progress was made with this scheme as with Hoxne and the date to be agreed for the Public Inquiry is awaited.

(e) Fressingfield and Weybread.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Herbert Bateman, made further progress with this scheme to the effect that, early in the year, the scheme was approved by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and following this tenders were obtained and a provisional starting date was agreed for 1st January 1954.

(f) Yaxley.

This scheme was submitted to the Ministry in May 1953.

(g) Stradbroke.

Extensions of the New Street and Wilby Road sewers were approved by the Council and it is hoped that these will be completed during 1954.

At the sewage disposal works a storm water lagoon was constructed to prevent flooding of the works.

(h) Sewer Ditches.

Work on cleaning out ditches at Botesdale, Mendlesham and Oakley was carried out.

(i) General.

Applications by certain parishes for a night soil collection were considered by the Council and were refused.

The provision of a cesspool emptying service was also considered.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bowell and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

H. SPINDLER

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

9th June 1954.